

[22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Non-Payment of Salary to the Postal Employees for Strike Period

†*5. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an order has been issued regarding non-payment of salary for the strike-period to the postal employees taking strict stand on the strike of the employees in support of their demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the employees are agitated due to this and they are again going on agitation; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard and whether Government would reconsider paying salary for the strike period to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The strike resorted to by postal employees in December, 2000 was declared illegal by the Government as it was in contravention of provision of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. According to the provisions of FR 17(1) and 17-A governing the conditions of service of Government employees, for the period of unauthorized absence during a strike which is declared illegal under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, or any other law for the time being in force, an employee shall not be entitled to any pay or allowances during the period of such absence and the said absence from duty shall also be deemed to cause an interruption or break in service of the employee unless and otherwise decided by the competent authority. The principle of "no work-no pay" as contained in the aforementioned provisions of fundamental rules has also been affirmed by the Supreme Court of India in respect of absence from duty due to strike.

In course of negotiations with the postal staff unions, who had issued the strike notice, they were apprised of the conditions of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

service of the Govt. employees, specifically in respect of the aforesaid provisions of Fundamental Rules. The staff federations were also exhorted to redress their grievances through bilateral discussions or conciliation procedure as laid down under the Industrial Disputes Act.

No specific intimation has been received by the Govt. regarding further agitation intended by the postal employees in this regard.

VRS in Syndicate Bank

*6. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees and officers of Syndicate Bank who applied for Voluntary Retirement Scheme which opened in the month of November, 2000;

(b) the number of persons who have been permitted or are likely to retire under VRS;

(c) whether VRS will have any adverse effect on the working of the Bank; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure smooth working of the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Syndicate Bank has reported that out of 7166 applications received under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 6523 applications are likely to be accepted.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure smooth working of the bank, the bank has made proper deployment of staff keeping in view the business growth/potential, etc. and implementation of the scheme is not expected to have adverse effect on the working of the bank.